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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gaudreau *et al.*
Serial No: 09/479,982
Filed: January 10, 2000
For: HIGH POWER MODULATOR

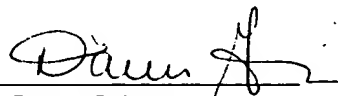
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Dawn Grimes

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the subject Request for Continued Examination (RCE) application. This Preliminary Amendment is in reply to the Office Action mailed November 2, 2001 in the subject application. In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

AMENDMENT B

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 19, 29, 30 and 31 as follows:

19. (once amended) A modulator comprising:

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- a) a transformer comprising a primary and a plurality of secondary windings, each secondary winding having an output terminal;
 - b) a plurality of retriggerable drive circuits, each of the retriggerable drive circuits being electrically connected with a respective one of the plurality of secondary windings and having an output and a transformer reflux control circuit; and
 - c) a plurality of switches, each switch associated with a respective retriggerable drive circuit and having two output terminals and a control terminal, the control terminal of each switch being in electrical communication with a respective output terminal of the retriggerable drive circuit,
- wherein each of the plurality of switches is substantially simultaneously switched by a first signal applied to the primary and remains substantially on until a second signal is applied to the primary of the transformer.
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29. (once amended) The modulator of claim 19 in which the transformer reflux control circuit includes a Zener diode connected in series with a field effect transistor. ¹

30. (once amended) The modulator of claim 19 in which the transformer reflux control circuit includes a bipolar voltage limiting means.

31. (twice amended) A method of switching a signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) applying an input voltage to a primary of a transformer;